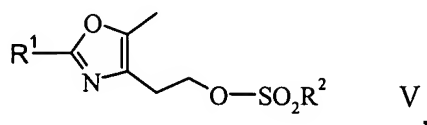


Amendments to the Claims:

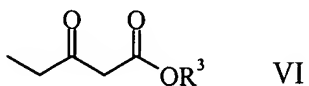
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula V

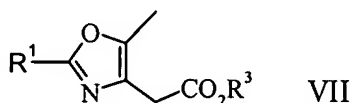


wherein R¹ is aryl or heteroaryl, and
R² is lower alkyl, aryl or trifluoromethyl;

comprising brominating a compound of formula VI,



wherein R³ is lower alkyl,
condensing the resulting brominated compound with R¹C(O)NH₂, wherein R¹ is as
above, to form a compound of formula VII,

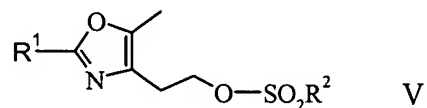


wherein R^1 and R^3 are as above,

reducing the compound of formula VII to convert the ester group to a corresponding alcohol, and

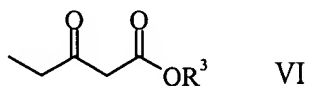
introducing a $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^2$ group, wherein R^2 is as above, onto the reduced compound of formula VII to yield the compound of formula V.

2. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula V,



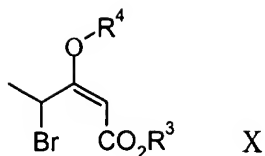
wherein R^1 is aryl or heteroaryl, and
 R^2 is lower alkyl, aryl or trifluoromethyl;

comprising brominating a compound of formula VI



wherein R^3 is lower alkyl,

converting the brominated compound to a compound of formula X,



wherein R^3 is as above and

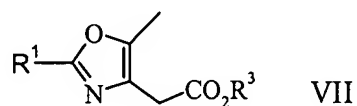
R^4 is lower alkyl, lower-alkyl-carbonyl, lower-alkoxy-carbonyl, aryl-carbonyl,

$P(O)(OR^5)_2$, or $Si(R^6)_3$, wherein

each R^5 independently represents lower alkyl or aryl, and

each R^6 independently represents lower alkyl or aryl;

subsequently condensing the compound of formula X with an amide $R^1C(O)NH_2$, wherein R^1 is as above, to obtain a compound of formula VII,



wherein R^1 and R^3 are as above,

reducing the compound of formula VII to convert the ester group to a corresponding alcohol and

subsequently introducing a $-SO_2R^2$ group, wherein R^2 is as above, to yield said compound of formula V.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 2, wherein R^3 is methyl or ethyl.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 2, wherein R^2 is methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl or 4-methyl-phenyl.
5. (Original) A process according to claim 4, wherein R^2 is methyl.
6. (Original) A process according to claim 2, wherein R^1 is phenyl.
7. (Original) A process according to claim 2, wherein R^1 is thiophen-2-yl.
8. (Original) A process for the preparation of 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione or Sodium 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedionate comprising the steps:
 - a) reacting methyl- or ethyl 3-oxovalerate with bromine to yield methyl- or ethyl 4-bromo-3-oxovalerate,
 - b) reacting the methyl- or ethyl 4-bromo-3-oxovalerate with benzamide to yield methyl- or ethyl 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetate,
 - c) converting the methyl- or ethyl 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetate to 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol,
 - d) reacting the 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol with methanesulfonylchloride to yield 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol methansulfonyl ester,
 - e) reacting the 2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol methanesulfonyl ester with 4-hydroxybenzothiophene to yield 4-[2-(benzo[b]thiophene-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole,
 - f) reacting the 4-[2-(benzo[b]thiophene-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-

oxazole with formaldehyde and HBr to yield 4-[2-(7-Bromomethyl-benzo[b]thiophen-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole, and

g) reacting the 4-[2-(7-Bromomethyl-benzo[b]thiophen-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole with 2,4-thiazolidine to yield 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione.

9. (Original) The process of claim 8, further comprising

h) converting the 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione to Sodium 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedionate.

10. (Original) A process for the preparation of 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione or Sodium 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedionate comprising the steps:

a) reacting methyl 3-oxovalerate with methyl orthoformate to yield methyl (E)-3-methoxy-2-pentenoate,

b) brominating the methyl (E)-3-methoxy-2-pentenoate to form methyl (E)-4-bromo-3-methoxy-pent-2-enoate,

c) reacting the methyl (E)-4-bromo-3-methoxy-pent-2-enoate with benzamide to yield methyl 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetate,

d) reducing the methyl 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetate to 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol,

e) reacting the 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol with methanesulfonylchloride to yield 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol methansulfonyl ester,

f) reacting the 2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol methanesulfonyl ester with 4-hydroxybenzothiophene to yield 4-[2-(benzo[b]thiophene-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole,

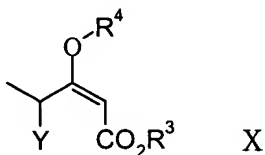
g) reacting the 4-[2-(benzo[b]thiophene-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole with formaldehyde and HBr to yield 4-[2-(7-Bromomethyl-benzo[b]thiophen-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole, and

h) reacting the 4-[2-(7-Bromomethyl-benzo[b]thiophen-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole with 2,4-thiazolidine to yield 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione.

11. (Original) The process of claim 10, further comprising

i) converting the 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione to Sodium 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedionate.

12. (Original) A compound of formula X



wherein

Y is Cl or Br,

R³ is lower alkyl, and

R⁴ is lower alkyl, lower-alkyl-carbonyl, lower alkoxy-carbonyl, aryl-carbonyl, P(O)(OR⁵)₂ or Si(R⁶)₃,

with the proviso that R^4 may not be methyl if Y is Br or if R^3 is methyl.

13. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is methyl or ethyl.

14. (New) A process according to claim 2, wherein R^2 is methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl or 4-methyl-phenyl.

15. (New) A process according to claim 4, wherein R^2 is methyl.

16. (New) A process according to claim 2, wherein R^1 is phenyl.

17. (New) A process according to claim 2, wherein R^1 is thiophen-2-yl.